

**REMARKS**

The Examiner is thanked for the performance of a thorough search.

The Reply to the Final Office Action mailed August 14, 2006 is supplemented herein with claim amendments heretofore and with the remarks hereinafter.

Claims 9-15, 23-26, and 30 are canceled herein without prejudice and for the sole purpose of concluding the prosecution of the subject application. Claims 31-35 have been added. No claims have been amended. Hence, Claims 1-3, 6-8, 16-18, 21-22, 27-29 and 31-35 are pending in the subject application.

**I. SUMMARY OF TELEPHONE INTERVIEW**

A telephone interview in the subject application was held in two separate telephone conversations on August 24, 2006 and August 28, 2006. Examiner Tran and Applicants' representative Stoycho D. Draganoff participated in the telephone conversations. Claims 1, 16, and 27-29, and Claims 9, 23, and 30 were discussed. No prior art reference was discussed.

In the telephone conversation of August 24, 2006, the Examiner indicated that Claims 1, 16, and 27-29 are allowable, but Claims 9, 16, and 23 would not be allowable absent any further amendments. In the follow-up telephone conversation of August 28, 2006, the Applicants' representative proposed to cancel Claims 9-15, 23-26, and 30 in order to place the subject application in condition for allowance. An agreement was reached that Claims 1-3, 6-8, 16-18, 21-22, and 27-29 are allowable.

The Applicants' representative also indicated that the present Supplemental Reply to the Final Office Action will be filed in order to cancel Claims 9-15, 23-26, and 30, and to introduce Claims 31-35 as dependent claims of Claim 29.

II. STATUS OF CLAIMS

Claims 1-3, 6-8, 16-18, 21-22, and 27-29 are allowable.

Claims 31-35, which depend from Claim 29, are new.

III. NEW CLAIMS 31-35

Claims 31-35 include similar features as Claims 2-3 and 6-8, respectively, except in the context of an apparatus. In addition, each of Claims 31-35 depends from allowable Claim 29. Therefore, each of Claims 31-35 is allowable over the art of record. Allowance of Claims 31-35 is respectfully requested.

IV. CONCLUSION

The Applicants believe that all issues raised in the final Office Action have been addressed. Further, for the reasons set forth above, the Applicants respectfully submit that all pending claims are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested in light of the supplemental amendments and remarks herein.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is believed that such contact would further the examination of the present application.

No fee is believed to be due with the present submission. Nevertheless, a petition for extension of time, to the extent necessary to make this reply timely filed, is hereby made. If applicable, a law firms check for the petition for extension of time fee is enclosed herewith.

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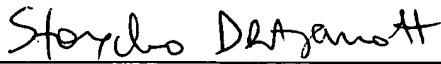
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If any applicable fee is missing or insufficient, throughout the pendency of this application, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any applicable fees and to credit any overpayments to our Deposit Account No. 50-1302.

Respectfully submitted,

HICKMAN PALERMO TRUONG & BECKER LLP

Dated: September 1, 2006

  
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